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11 September 1963

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FROM

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Current Support Brief

TELEVISION TO HEIGHTEN PROPAGANDA WAR IN KOREA



CIA/RR CB 63-74

30 August 1963

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY Office of Research and Reports

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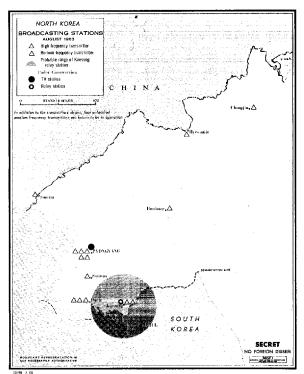
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S-E-C-R-E-T

TELEVISION TO HEIGHTEN PROPAGANDA WAR IN KOREA



North Korea reportedly is constructing a television relay station at Kaesong to be used for propaganda broadcasts to South Korea. When completed sometime in 1963, this station will mark the first use of television in the continuing propaganda war between North and South Korea. The potential audience for these broadcasts will be initially small because South Korea has only 50,000 television receivers. Nevertheless, South Korean police officials are concerned about the dangers of such broadcasts and are taking countermeasures to reduce or eliminate their effectiveness.

1. Background

The North Korean television network is still in its infancy. Immediate plans call for a main station at Pyongyang and a relay station at Kaesong (see the map

above). Both stations are under construction and presumably will be operational before the end of 1963. The specific mission of the relay station at Kaesong is the relay of Pyongyang broadcasts to Seoul, the only area in South Korea that has commercial television. $\underline{1}/$

2. <u>Technical Problems</u>

Because South Korean television standards differ from those of North Korea, which adheres to the standards of the Sino-Soviet Bloc International

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Radio and Television Organization (OIRT), it will be necessary for the Kaesong station to operate in accordance with South Korean standards. Consequently, the necessary equipment for the Kaesong station is being imported from Japan, which operates on the same standards as South Korea. Transmissions from the main station at Pyongyang, operating on OIRT standards, will be converted by the Kaesong station and then retransmitted to South Korea. Similar conversions from one television technical standard to another have been in use between Eastern and Western Europe for some time. 2/

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3. South Korean Countermeasures

In anticipation of North Korean television broadcasts, the South Korean police are taking remedial actions to eliminate the impending propaganda dangers.

South Korea also intends to counter this propaganda threat with its own television broadcasts to North Korea. 3/

4. Pattern of North Korean Programing

At present, North Korea directs a substantial part of its domestic and international radiobroadcasting effort against South Korea. More than 75 percent of its international broadcasts are beamed to South Korea, and all 19 domestic transmitters are used for "barrage" transmission to South Korea during the final 2 hours of their daily schedule. 4/ The addition of television to the arsenal of propaganda weapons may signal the heightening of efforts to subvert the populace of South Korea.

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Coord:
Sources:

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4. CIA. CIA/RR ER 62-19, Post and Telecommunication Services in North Korea, 1953-61, Jun 62, p. 28. S.

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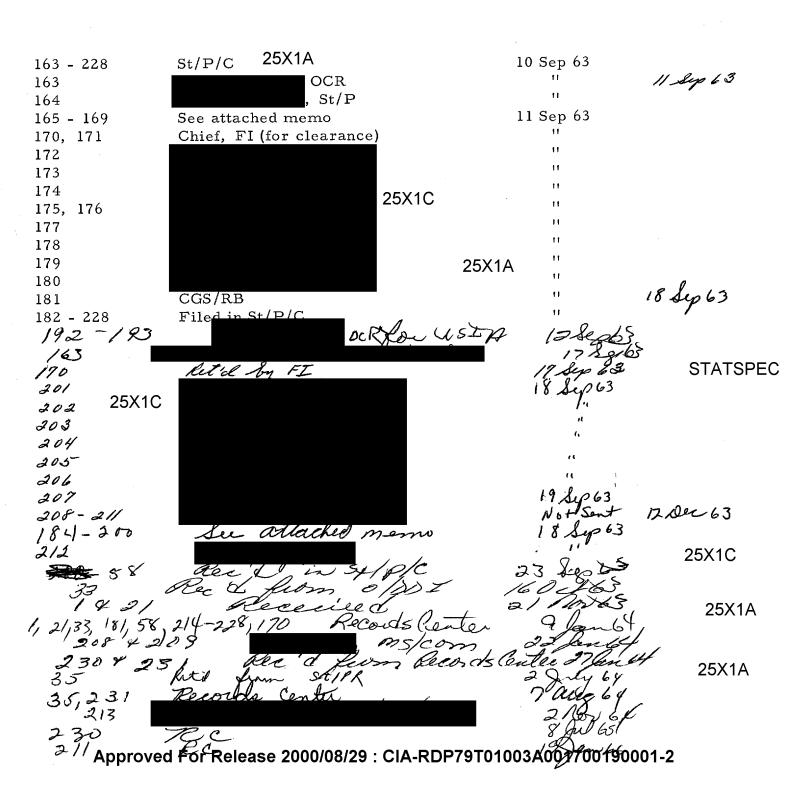
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